Aruba I ODAY

On Top Of The News

Email: news@arubatoday.com

Wednesday, July 1, 2009



U.S. NEWS

FRANKEN SPEAKING



In this April 13, 2009 file photo Al Franken talks with reporters outside his home in Minneapolis. On Tuesday, June 30, 2009, the Minnesota Supreme Court paves way for Democrat Al Franken to fill long-vacant Senate seat.

See U.S. News

SPORTS NEWS

JOINING VENUS



Serena Williams of U.S. celebrates a point won against Victoria Azarenka of Belarus during their quarterfinal match at Wimbledon, Tuesday, June 30, 2009.

See Sports Today Page 10

And a super donation for the Mi Por foundation

Circus 'Schakelini' impresses with ingenious and entertaining show



SHABA - Circus 'Schakelini' was the name of the end production of a sixweek project of elementary school De Schakel last Tuesday morning.

The school's gym had been transformed into a circus tent and parents had come in droves to see their kids perform.

Entry tickets were sold and proceeds went to Mi Por, the foundation that helps handicapped children and their parents cope. A fantastic idea, which generated a

whopping AWG. 2000,--for this worthwhile cause.

Continued on Page 2

23 countries participating

International Youth Tennis Tourney gets underway

TIHTA, known as the "Torneo Internacional Hubenil de Tennis Aruba", got underway last Monday morning with the customary opening ceremony in which all 23 participating countries showed their flags and players in a defile. And after that, play got underway, the adrenaline rose quite a bit and things got serious on the courts of the Aruba Racquet Club. 96 athletes have registered in the Under 18 group, while 64 players have registered for the Under 14 (COTECC) tournament. For the younger players, there are the Under 10 and 12 groups. Referee Colleen de Gannes from Trinidad and supervisor Tano Cruz have an excellent team of umpires for this coming week of action.

Continued on Page 3



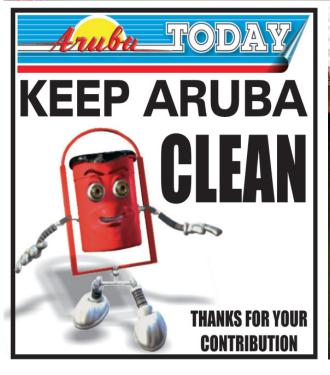


Aruba_TODAY

Circus `Schakelini' impresses with ingenious and entertaining show











Children of groups one through four performed admirably on the tightrope, doing tricks as magicians, jumping through burning hoops as monkeys, lifting weights and much, much more to the thunderous applause of the enthusiastic circus audience. The finale

saw all the kids in action. Standing in the middle of the crowd, Mi Por's Nicole Neslo and Peter Ballière thanked everyone who had made a donation, and

they especially thanked the children of De Schakel for their super performance. Well done!



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International Youth Tennis Tourney gets underway



the year on Aruba. TIHTA is in its 23rd year, but the ITF-sanctioned tournament of the Under 18 players started in 1994. Young athletes can gain points in this category;

points that will put them on the international ranking of the International Tennis Federation (ITF).
Photos show several young

players in action, among them Stephanie Marchena, top ranked female player of Aruba, and number two Tessaly Zimmerman. The group picture shows members of the ALTB board and tournament director Marcel Tjon En Fa during a welcome cocktail party at the Aruba Racquet Club. The party was sponsored by Romar Trading with Concha y Toro wines and juices.





Continued from Front Page

Tournament director Marcel

Tjon En Fa is very happy with

the 200-player 2009 event.

Together with Aruba Lawn

Tennis Bond (ALTB)'s Mieke

Krohn and her board members

he has organised the largest







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Wednesday, July 1, 2009 LOCAL







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Airport of the Year 2009 Awards, Runner-up Status

Queen Beatrix Int'l Airport Aruba recognized internationally

By passengers once again

ORANJESTAD - Aruba Airport Authority N.V. (AAA) has received word that it has been awarded second place in Skytrax' World Airport Awards - Best Airports in the Category for Central America and the Caribbean for the the study is respected for its second consecutive year. First Place went to Panama Cityand third place went to Mexico City. Aruba is the only airport in its category that appears in the top three airports in both 2008 and 2009.

Awards like these have special value as it is the traveling public who determine the winners by completing the survey.

The World Airport Survey is conducted by UK-based aviation research organization, Skytrax.

The World Airport SurveyTM is the Airport Survey that guarantees independence and unbiased impartiality. In its 11th year of operation, transparency and authenticity. The World Airport AwardsTM are based on the results from 8.6 million questionnaires completedbyairlinepassengers in 2008/9, covering more than 190 airports worldwide. Passenger interviews include a detailed appraisal for more than 40 categories of product and service quality from check-in to departure, from arrivals to baggage collection - including terminal



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Ahoy Matey bring this ad in for a free glass of house wine

cleanliness, staff efficiency, courtesy, terminal signage, security processing, immigration and customers, walking distances, as well as features like shopping, dining options, internet services.

"This award is a reassurance that our entire team's hard work and efforts in upgrading our facilities and maintaining a constant quality product

does pay off and that it's recognized by the traveling public", Peter Steinmetz, Managing Director AAA said. "Being a tourism destination in such a delicate period, we are very aware that every single part of the experience is of vital importance, having a good experience upon arrival and departure is the key focus of our success".







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www.aruba.com holds 1st Video Contest



PASEO HERENCIA – The Aruba Tourism Authority announce its newest local promotion this week in Mr. Jazz. It is a video contest to enrich Aruba's official website www.aruba.com

The objectives of the competition is to Explore, and capture not commonly advertised unique aspects of the island, such as Fun, Culture- and Arts-oriented, and Nature aspects, which are seen through

the eyes and felt through the hearts of the Arubans themselves. In particular, scenes that are uniquely considered "treasures of Aruba", and allowing the local community to experience their island from a

different viewpoint.

This competition is opened to the general public of all ages, thus anyone owning a (digital) video camera.

Categories: Youth: 10 - 17 years old, Adult: 18+ years old.

The contest begins July 1st and ends August 31st 2009 (Entry Period).





Competition organizers announce to the local press the initiation of the 1st Video Contest for www. aruba.com that will start on July 1st, 2009.

Photos by Julia Renfro

All entries received during the competition will become property of the Aruba Tourism Authority and shall reserve the rights of the material. Information on registration and prizes are included in the Official Rules of the competition. By submitting an entry, each entrant agrees to the Official Rules and warrants that his/her entry complies with all requirements specified in the Official Rules. For more information, go to www.aruba.com/tesoronan.

Video Themes: Fun: Sports, Activities, Nightlife. Arts & Culture: Dance, Music, Paint, Cultural Events, People, Culinary. Nature: Landscape, Flora & Fauna.

How to Enter: Entrants may submit in total no more than one (1) entry per theme. Each entry must comply with the

following entry requirements: Download and complete the entry form. Submit this entry form, Afl.10 (incl. workshop) and your digital video(s) on a DVD at ATA office.

Entry form must be complete for entry to be valid.

The entrant must be the producer of the video(s) and all of its content such as audio, video, and images. By entering the contest, entrant represents, acknowledges and warrants that the submitted video(s) are original works created by the entrant and that no other party has any right, title, claim or interest in the video(s). In the event that the video(s) features audio, images, and/or performances of third party, the entrant must submit a written document (waiver, available on www. aruba.com) in which the

third party grants the entrant all rights over his/her audio, images, and/or performance and renounces to any payment or reimbursement of any kind from the Aruba Tourism Authority. In the case of a minor, the subject's parent or guardian model release must be provided upon request.

Prizes include: Apple Macintosh "Mac Book Pro" and 1st 2nd 3rd Prizes per Theme: Handy cams, iPods, Hotel Stays, Sailing Trips & more

A panel of Judges ranging from Professional filmmakers to Artists in our community will evaluate the entries based on the following criteria: Clear message about the main topic "Treasures of Aruba";

Overall impact; Originality; and Creativity.

~ Photos by Julia Renfro

The best place to eat after Midnight!

The Untouchables & Tasty Taco's tonight at Chino Latino



THE VILLAGE – Recently, the popular restaurant Chino Latino and Wednesday Night Latin Dance Club introduced Taco night featuring 4 different delectable Tacos. The idea is to enjoy the delicious tacos

this evening and finish with a fantastic evening of Barrio Latino enjoying all the most popular

international songs including Salsa, Merengue, Latin Rock, Reggaeton by one of the most popular house bands on the island "The Untouchables". You can switch the order and end with Late Night Tacos before going home. On Friday enjoy the famous Sushi night and then this coming Sunday enjoy brunch!!!





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Joitza Henriquez (1st Runner – Up) and Jeanique de Palm (2nd Runner-Up)

Christine Vinck is Miss Teen Aruba International 2009





ORANJESTAD - This past Sunday in the Las Palmas Ballroom of the Occidental Grand Resort the Miss Teen Aruba International 2009 was held. Eight candidates participated in the pageant to win the crown

for Miss Teen Aruba. It was a spectacular show with a sports theme where the candidates danced to the choreography of John Freddy Montoya, the show continued with the group "A dazzlers di

Montilla" and "Timbiriche -Lollypop" under the guidance and choreography of Marisol y Erwin.

Master of ceremonies Edjean Semeleerand Deyanira Jansen Frank lead the event with extreme professionalism.

The results: Miss Teen Amistad is Adeline Martinus, Miss Teen Spirit Joitza Henriquez, Miss Teen Elegence Angela Semeleer, Miss Teen MAS Christine Vinck, Miss Teen Photogenic Joitza Henriquez, Miss Teen Popular Christine Vinck,



Best Skin Regine Bikker, Best Legs Christine Vinck, Best Hair Davina Kock, Best Smile Atanee Hassell, Best Make Up Joitza Henriquez, Best Hair Do Regine Bikker, Best Aruban Designer (Ronchi de Cuba dressed by Joitza Henriquez, Miss Teen

Flamingo Jeanique De Palm, Miss Teen Folklore Christine Vinck.

Congratulations to George Winterdaal and everyone from the GLW Foundation for the beautiful presentation of MISS TEEN ARUBA INTERNATIONAL.



Wednesday, July 1, 2009 LOCAL

Aruba TODAY

Action and ambiance at packed Eagle Beach

Robin Roossien - Dylan Guest/



Sunday afternoon was the ultimate day for participating division final. After a thriller in and viewing beach and water a tie-break, local heroes Dennis

80 teams participating in categories ranging from fun to pro. Windsurfing, kite boarding, and skim boarding brought out and show off their moves.

enjoyed a day that featured the spins of DJ Kid, burgers Energy Drink. and hot dogs hot off the grill, and plenty of cold drinks and girls also made the rounds giving "Monster tattoos" from offering Aruba Aloe

suntan products.

Beach tennis provided an 5.

a huge upset in the pro men's and Cado (known as the 'Bula Anchoring the day of events boys') got their first win in was the National Beach a big tournament defeating Tournament that saw nearly Coulet/Hernandez, who were unbeaten until Sunday!

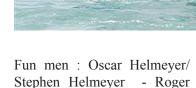
> This event was powered and made possible by:

Alno Kitchen, Amstel Bright many more athletes to compete Aruba Aloe, ATA, Bacardi Mojito, Bula Surf Shop, Inter Participants and spectators Assure, Zen Design, and premier sponsor Monster

> More information about arubabeachtennis.com.

Beach Tennis results adults: Monster Energy Drink and Fun ladies: Biki Martinez/ Belinda Martinez - Barbara Bergita/Wendie Barreveld, 8-

van Riet/Reinier Kooi, 8-6. the hottest game on the Amstel Bright Beer. Promo Island can be found at www.



ARU 62

Fun mix : Stephanie/Bart Jan - Sartini Kousemaker/Bob de Bouwer, 8-7.

Intermediate men: Michel van Leeuwen/Marc Kiezebrink - Hubert Solagnier/Armando

> Brianna Escobedo, 8-4. Pro ladies: Marieke Buuts/ Evelyn Peeters - Kim Tilleman/

> Advanced mix : Jose Marin/ Rixt Kramer - Hector Espinoza/

- Fernando Dulce/William

Advanced ladies: Marloes

Kleys/Jolanda van Overbeek

Escobedo, 8-6.

Advanced men

Ramshorst, 8-3.

Samardzic/Francis

Jolanda Sluys, 8-3.

Michelle Marlenee/Tina

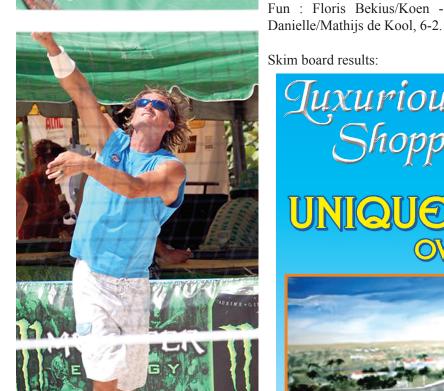
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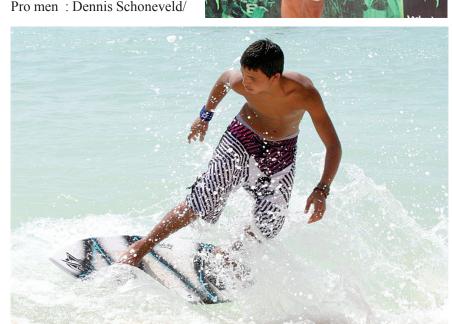




Monster National Beach Tennis event 'Monstrous!'

Coulet/ Derrick Hernandez, BULA Youth Tournament: Advanced: Sebastian v/d Sloot/ Liam Ramshorst, 7-5.







Intermediate:

1. Chesly Tromp, 2. Joeri King, 3. Jason Semeleer

Advanced 1.Jason Peterson, 2.Jonathan Henricus, 3.Manuela Van Borselen (A.K.A Maantje only girl of the contest.) Next competition will be the 1 Ly Sander Loefstok, 2 Uli

2nd annual Skim Fest Aruba,

Punta Brabo a.k.a. Manchebo Beach.

More info or register: Shane Thielman, tell nr: 6603316 Windsurfing results WRCA: New kids : 1 Nikki Croes. Super kids: 1 Nick & Mack v/d Eerenbeemt.

Pro kids : 1 Bart Kole & Berend Pronk This Wednesday the Hi-winds

start at The Huts. Kite boarding results:

Rivera, 3 Anabel Westerop, 4





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Wednesday, July 1, 2009 LOCAL

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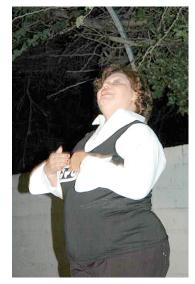




BY Jan Falcone ORANJESTAD - For the past 2 weeks Cas di Cultura presented a theater workshop for adults and teenagers. More than 30 enthusiastic participants took part in drama lessons, given by Bart van Heel

Netherlands) (Amsterdam, Takhai Mohamed and (Aruba). The workshop was merely based on improvisational theater and resulted in a presentation of several short scenes at the location of Ateliers '89 in Oranjestad, Aruba's art school, last Saturday June

The presentation of drama scenes on location, linked together by Bart van Heel as master of ceremony - got very positive reactions from the audience. Many people were surprised to see actors play outside of a theater setting, and were also amused because they had to move from spot to spot to watch another sketch taking place.



Some sketches were created by the actors themselves (e.g. Mother Earth by the teenager group), while others were based on a Greek tragedy or an existing piece of poetry. This variation in content and form made the presentation very entertaining for everyone present.

Cas di Cultura will continue to offer theater activities (workshops, courses, productions etc.) under the titel PLAY! in the near future.

For many participants (young and old) this workshop was an introduction to the art of theater and most of them want to continue building their "career" as an (amateur) drama player. Cas di Cultura will announce its upcoming activities after the summer holidays and of course everyone is invited to take part in PLAY!

general information pre-inscription please call 5821010 or email to info@casdicultura.com.









HEALTH A11 Wednesday, July 1, 2009

Special Child (ADD/ADHD/Autism) -

By: Dr. Carlos Viana

Some of you who were lucky enough to know me as a child might remember me as a child who required a disproportionate amount of attention or correction. Called a "problem child" by some and kindly described by the smarter ones of you who realize that I just wanted to "do my own thing". There are a group of boys; we are in our fifties and sixty's now, growing up in Aruba who I fondly remember as the "bad boys". Really bad? Not really, we were expressing our own budding individualism in healthy ways.

Unfortunately, today when we describe a boy who "requires a disproportionate amount of attention or correction' we are probably of talking about a boy suffering from developmental disorders such as Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) or autism. This is bad. Worse, having to recognize that we are in an epidemic that conservatively affects 1 in 166 children; there are many more autistic boys than girls.1 in 68 families have a child that needs a disproportionate amount of attention.

Epidemic? Yes, the incidence of autism has increased from 1 in 10,000 in the 1970s to 1 in 150 today, an increase of over 6,000%. Many more children are diagnosed with neurodevelopmental other disorders all considered to be on the same spectrum including Asperger's, ADHD/ADD, speech delay, autism and many other developmental and learning disabilities.

There are three distinctive behaviors that characterize these disorders.

The hallmark feature of autism is impaired social interaction. Parents are usually the first to notice symptoms of autism in their child. As early as infancy, a baby with autism may be unresponsive to people or focus intently on one item to the exclusion of others for long periods of time. A child with autism may appear to develop normally and then withdraw and become indifferent to social engagement. The normal development period has been noted to be up to when the child was immunized.

Although, pharmaceutical companies state that they have removed Thimerosol from childhood vaccinations, flue shots, and even B- complex injections, they are still made with ingredients that use Thimerosol in some part of the process. Thimerosol is a mercury-containing organic compound. Since the 1930s, it has been widely used as a preservative in a number of biological and drug products, including many vaccines. Dental amalgams are another high source of mercury. Dental amalgams are 50% mercury and studies show that high levels of mercury from the parents cross the placenta into the growing baby. Medical researchers believe there is a direct link between the exposure of mercury, a widely known brain poison and the increasing incidences of autism.

Since mercury is the most toxic heavy metal, in our clinic we started screening our patients suffering from neuro-developmental disorders for toxic heavy metals using head hair. Over the years we have realized

what numerous scientists have; that autism, autistic spectrum disorders and ADD have similar characteristics to those of chronic metal toxicity. Knowing that toxic metals disable a growing body and brain by producing chronic irritation, I started looking for the culprits of chronic inflammation in these children.

The triad responsible for generating chronic inflammation in your body is: toxic heavy metals, bowel toxicities, and the wrong food for your metabolic or blood type. There is now a great deal of information available that tells us that toxic metals and chemicals such as mercury, lead, arsenic, cadmium, insecticides and pesticides are a causative factor in many cases of autism and ADD.

Inflammation in the brain is clearly a feature of autism, according to a study published November 2004, in the scientific journal of the American Neurological Association. The researchers found that immune system components that promote inflammation are consistently activated in people with autism.

We have witnessed childrenwithneurodevelopmental disorder symptoms caused as a result of mal absorption and intolerances to certain foods. Dairy products and gluten contained in wheat and grain products have shown to be the most offensive. Some of our patients' parents have reported remarkable changes after the elimination of these foods from the diets of their children. Both of my boys are over six feet, healthy guys, who have grown strong without cow's milk. Milk today would be dangerous if it is not pasteurized. However, the pasteurization process turns milk casein into a dangerous molecule that inflames and injures the brain. Additionally, the pasteurization process changes the calcium in milk into an inorganic calcium that cannot be used by your body. If we cannot use the calcium in milk, why are we drinking milk?

Consistently, we find strong indications of chronic inflammation children in exhibiting development problems. Treatment of symptoms should begin with a healthy diet including foods that are compatible with their metabolic type. Foods high in quality protein foods such as eggs, cooked soft without grease, lean meat, fresh vegetables and balanced essential oils. Eliminating processed sugars especially high fructose corn syrup, milk products and wheat has also shown to reduce the development of diabetes; another growing epidemic.

We have improvement in children who use the recommended diet together with supplementation of the beneficial colon bacteria probiotics and B complex vitamins. Please remember. professional supervision from a clinical nutritionist is highly recommended before giving supplements to young children. Meanwhile, hair tests can identify toxic heavy metals and blood tests can reveal the damage done by pesticides and insecticides. Information on making a safer, non-toxic environment for your special child is also available.

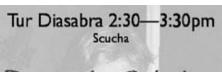
Get The Point! Corresponding to the epidemic



rise over the past decade treatments and therapies have been developed which greatly increase our ability to help children with developmental problems. Many of our children recover or improve dramatically given the proper therapies. Understanding the options provide parents the tools needed to benefit our children. Come in for an analysis and individual plan.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in Shanghai, China; a Board Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), a fellow member of the Board Certified Association Addiction Professionals (C.Ad.), the Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), specializes in Anti-Aging Medicine, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA HEALING CENTER. Kibaima 7, Aruba, TEL: 585-FAX: 585-4789, Web Sight: www.vianaheal.com

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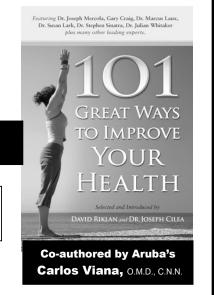
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Aruba TODAY

ong quarter ends cautiously as earnings



Traders Ben Willis, center, and Peter Tuchman work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Tuesday, June 30, 2009.

By MADLEN READ, **AP Business Writer**

NEW YORK - Investors carried Wall Street to a remarkable second-quarter performance even though stocks' big spring rally stalled weeks ago.

The major indexes all managed to end the quarter with doubledigit percentage gains. Now, whether the market regains

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

its momentum in the July-September period or hunkers down again will depend on what companies have to say in the next few weeks — not just about their own prospects, but the economy's as well.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 11 percent during the quarter, while the Standard & Poor's 500 index surged 15.2 percent. Both indexes logged

their first quarterly gains since 1,835.04. the third quarter of 2007. The Dow also had its best quarter since 2003 and the S&P 500 its best since 1998.

The S&P 500 index and the Nasdaq composite index are finishing the first half of 2009 in the black. The Nasdaq, heavily populated by tech stocks, rose 20 percent for its first winning quarter in a year and had its best quarter since 2003. The quarter turned out better than most traders might have expected when the major indexes sank to 12-year lows in early March on growing despair about the recession. But the market's advance wasn't as impressive as it was in mid-June, when the major indexes hit multi-month highs. Since then, investors' uncertainty about the strength of an economic recovery has brought the Dow down 4 percent, the S&P 500 down 2.8 percent and the Nasdaq, 1.5 percent.

On Tuesday, the last day of the quarter, the Dow fell 82.38, or 1 percent, to 8,447.00; the S&P 500 fell 7.90, or 0.9 percent, to 919.33, and the Nasdag slid 9.02, or 0.5 percent, to

Investors have gone through a big psychological shift over the past six months. After sending the Dow plunging to a 12-year low in early March amid fears of another Great Depression, they drove it up a staggering 34 percent from mid-March to mid-June as the global economy and corporate world showed signs of stabilizing. It was the shortest time frame for a market recovery of that size since the 1930s. And while no one knows yet if the United States was coming out of a recession during the just-ended quarter, the market as measured by the S&P 500 acted as if it was. The S&P 500 was up 13.6 percent in the first quarter of 1991 as it came out of a recession, and 16.8 percent in the fourth quarter of 1982. "That massive fear of a complete failure in the financial system? That's been taken off the table," said Brett D'Arcy, chief investment officer of CBIZ Wealth Management. "The doomsday predictions? Those have been largely pushed aside."

But investors are well aware that American businesses may

still be facing hard times. That's making the market uneasy about what corporate executives have to say in the coming weeks.

First, there's the issue of how they're making money. Companies largely cost-cut their way into profitability in the first quarter of 2009. That technique might not fly with investors looking for signs of real growth as they enter the second half of the year when the economic recovery is supposed to arrive.

"I don't think the markets are going to give companies a free pass anymore," said Keith Wirtz, president and chief investment officer at Fifth Third Asset Management in Cincinnati.

Second, investors want to hear executives' take on the economy. Outlooks are important in any business environment because companies offer more detailed views into economic indicators such as orders, inventories and consumer trends.

Even if the forecasts are disappointing, analysts believe stocks are on a more solid footing than they were earlier this year. The market is no longer being driven by panic.

Still, stocks have paused and wobbled because the economic data that fired up their rally in early March haven't improved significantly the past few weeks.

"The world isn't ending," said Wirtz, but now, "all eyes and all thoughts are on the recovery side: How big will the recovery be? How strong?"

Companies aren't laying off workers as much as they were in early 2009, but the unemployment rate keeps heading toward 10 percent. Reports have shown that consumers are saving more than they're spending, and that home prices still haven't recovered.

Stocks fell Tuesday after Conference Board's consumer confidence index fell unexpectedly in June. The Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller index showed another decline in home prices, albeit it the smallest since June 2008.



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(Tournaments are subject to charge as per Management criteria)

Only Casino in Aruba Where dealer stands on Soft 17





Immigrants in US are asking for money from home

By SAMANTHA HENRY, Associated Press Writer

FAIRVIEW, N.J. – For five years, immigrant day laborer Leo Chamale wired money twiceamonth from New Jersey to his family in Guatemala. Recently, he stepped up to the money transfer window for a different purpose — to ask that his family send some of his savings back to him.

"I hadn't worked for five months, and I was two months behind on rent, so I had them send \$1,500," the 21-year-old Chamale said in Spanish. "My mother said, 'That's a lot of money!""

With the U.S. economy in a ditch, money transfer agencies have been reporting a decline in the wages immigrants are sending back to their home countries. Now, it appears some immigrants are going a step further — asking their relatives to wire them money back.

"We've never seen this before," said Marlen Miranda, manager of Peerless Travel in Fairview, which runs a money transfer service. "I mean, one or two people might receive money for a special reason, but not this quantity of people."

Miranda said she has seen her customer base dwindle from 200 people to 75 who regularly use her money transfer services each month. Of those 75, Miranda said, about 20 now come in to receive money instead of

sending it home.

"They can't send them much, because the economy in their countries is so bad," Miranda said. "Sometimes people only receive \$20 from home."

It is not clear how much money is being sent back to the U.S. or how widespread the phenomenon is. Large money transfer agencies, such as Western Union, said they do not disclose how much money is sent or received by their field offices. Banks in foreign countries often track only money sent into the country by their citizens living abroad.

But clearly, these "reverse remittances" — as the money wired back to the U.S. is called — are extremely small when compared to the money immigrants send home.

Immigrants working in the U.S. sent more than \$50 billion back to their native countries last year, according to the World Bank, which predicts the amount will drop 5 percent in 2009. Mexico's central bank said remittances sent to that country are down more than 18 percent in the past year, and registered their biggest decline on record in April.

Alejandro Tejada, manager of Tenares Communications, a Western Union office in Passaic, said he, too, has noticed money flowing in reverse, into the U.S. — a phenomenon he rarely, if ever, saw before.



It began around late March, Tejada said, after a tough winter in which construction projects and other ventures that usually employ immigrant day laborers ground to a halt.

World Bank economist Dilip Ratha said he devised his own measure of how much money is sent back to immigrants living in the U.S. and other countries. Analyzing foreign currency deposits in the Dominican Republic, Mexico and India from February 2008 to January 2009, Ratha found that immigrants from those countries tapped into their savings accounts — money they had previously wired home — at an accelerated rate as the global economy worsened.

The amount of foreign currency on deposit declined 7 percent in the Dominican Republic, 12 percent in India, and 6 percent in Mexico during the 12-month period, Ratha said.

Nevertheless, "people are sending far, far, far more back home than what they are taking out," he said.



In this Friday, June 19, 2009 photo, Alejandro Tejada, manager of Tenares Communications, a Western Union office in Passaic, N.J., holds up remittance checks, that were sent from foreign countries to immigrants in the United States. Money transfer agencies have been reporting for months a continuing decline in the amount of money immigrants in the U.S. send to relatives back home.

Ratha said the surge in money wired back to the U.S. will not last long.

"The ability of, let's say, a Mexican family or a Nepalese family to be able to send dollar remittances to maintain somebody to pay for living expenses in the U.S. or in Europe is very weak, because they are very poor," Ratha said. "And the savings that are there of the migrants are also not very significant in most

(AP Photo/Mike Derer) cases — so those savings will run out very quickly."

Standing on a street corner a recent morning in Palisades Park, looking for work, Chamale said he is now hoping to earn just enough for a plane ticket home.

"I was forced to ask for money from home during the winter months," he said. "After that, I said to myself, 'That's it — I'm heading back to my country."



Wednesday, July 1, 2009 PEOPLE & ARTS

The Little Mermaid' sets its final Broady



In this theater publicity image released by Disney Theatrical Productions, Chelsea Morgan Stock, left, and Drew Seeley are shown in a scene from Disney's, 'The Little Mermaid,' in New York.

(AP Photo/Disney Theatrical Productions, Joan Marcus)

By MICHAEL KUCHWARA, **AP Drama Writer**

NEW YORK - "The Little Mermaid" is set for its final Broadway swim.

The lavish musical based on the Disney animated film will close Aug. 30 after a 20month run, producer Thomas Schumacher announced Tuesday.

"As much as it hurts to do, it's the best thing to do ... for the show because it allows 'Mermaid' to its maximize its audiences now during the summer," said Schumacher, president of Disney Theatrical Productions.

A national tour is planned for fall 2010 and it will be followed by overseas productions.

"By the time 'Mermaid' closes, it will have done 685 performances," the producer said. "It's a respectable run,

just not what I would have hoped for. ... At some point, one has to put one's ego aside and do what's best for the production. And certainly in our case for the shareholders who have invested in it. We have to do right by the show." "The Little Mermaid" has done respectable although not boffo business since opening in January 2008 at the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre. week, for example, it grossed \$863,745, out of a potential gross of nearly \$1.3 million.

Disney doesn't reveal the cost of its shows, and Schumacher declined to discuss the "Mermaid" recoupment, saying: "We don't go into that. The only time we've ever talked about it was on 'Mary Poppins' (it did recoup) and that's because we had an outside producer on it - Cameron Mackintosh."

But shows like "Mermaid," with lavish sets and costumes, usually cost upward of \$15 million.

Schumacher was bullish about

the musical's upcoming tour prospects.

"When we did our out-of-town performance," he said.

tryout in Denver (in 2007), we sold out every single

Who's Really the Father of Michael Jackson's Kids?



Leslie Gornstein

Los Angeles (E! Online) – Is it true that Michael Jackson wasn't the dad of some of his kids? If they aren't related to him at all, how can Michael's mom get custody of them?

—Capon

It's been assumed for years that Prince Michael and Paris are not biologically related to the late star—reports have been floating around since at least 2004, when newspapers worldwide picked up on a tabloid report citing court papers filed by Jackson's exwife Debbie Rowe.

The new rumor surfacing, of course, is that the mystery dad now allegedly has a name, face and profession. Us Weekly magazine is claiming he is Arnold Klein, the dermatologist who treated Jackson's reported skin disorder.

If these reports are true, what might that eventually mean when it comes to custody of Prince and Paris? Well...

...probably not much.

The kids are 11 and 12 now, Jackson's mother Katherine has filed for custodianship, and Klein—assuming he is the dad hasn't said a word publicly.

(Access Hollywood spoke with Klein's publicist, who would only say that the doctor has been a friend of Jackson's for two decades. More interestingly, the flack says Klein's attorney will not let him speak until the coroner's report on M.J.'s death comes out.)

Reports are now claiming that Klein and Rowe were "surrogates" in producing the kids—an arrangement that usually includes ceding of custody as standard operating procedure.

Also, courts are generally not keen on separating children from siblings. Let's not forget that there's also Prince Michael II aka Blanket, a third child, age 7, and that all three kids have been together since he was born. (Mystery surrounds Blanket, too, and the mother has never been revealed, even on the birth

If anyone other than Katherine has a shot at custody of Prince and Paris, it's Rowe. Some reports are indicating that she might not even be the biological mother of Prince or Paris, but she does have some parental rights. (Rowe's lawyer told Radar today that this rumor is "entirely false.")

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Jackson family says the singer's will has surfaced



A Michael Jackson fan posts a sign on the gates of the late pop star's former residence, Neverland Ranch, in Los Olivos, Calif., Tuesday, June 30, 2009.

By NEKESA MUMBI MOODY,

AP Music Writer

LOS ANGELES – A will for Michael Jackson has surfaced and is expected in court soon, a lawyer for the family said Tuesday, countering their previous claim that he died without such a document.

"My clients are now aware after filings that a will has been presented," said L. Londell McMillan. "His various advisers over time are looking for additional documents."

No further details were disclosed, and a copy of the document was not immediately available

The word came just a day after the family said in court

(AP Photo/Michael A. Mariant) documents it believed the entertainer had died without a valid will. That could complicate a petition by Jackson's mother Katherine to become the administrator of his lucrative, but debt-

encumbered estate.

A will almost always names an executor, and if validated, it would negate the petition of Jackson's mother to control the estate, said John Novogrod, an estate lawyer and partner at Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP in New York.

"If there is a will and if the will is a valid will, the whole petition to be named administrator will just fall away," Novogrod said.

Jackson was recently in shaky

financial health. In the most detailed account vet of the singer's tangled financial empire, documents obtained by The Associated Press show Jackson claimed to have a net worth of \$236.6 million as of March 31, 2007. But less than \$700,000 of that amount was in cash — a relatively paltry sum given his opulent lifestyle, prodigious borrowing and seven-figure shopping sprees. Meanwhile, Sheriff's Lt. Butch Arnoldi said authorities met Tuesday based on speculation over a possible memorial at Neverland, but Jackson's family had yet to reach out to them for assistance with any kind of memorial.

"We have not been contacted by any member of the family or any representative of the family, talking about or requesting any kind of event," he said.

Neverland is located in the rolling hills of central California's wine country, about 150 miles northwest of Los Angeles.

A public funeral there on a busy holiday weekend could bring the rural area's roads to a standstill.

A statement from Santa Barbara County officials said the county "cannot confirm that any such funeral or memorial plans for Michael Jackson will occur here despite widespread reports today by the news media that a funeral or memorial event is planned for the area."

California Highway Patrol spokesman Rick Quintero said the CHP had not received a request for a motorcade.

"They would definitely need to notify us because it's going to impact the motoring public," Quintero said.



Rogen, Hathaway, Jackman, Franco, Rudd Join the Academy

Gina Serpe

Los Angeles (E! Online) – Seth Rogen and James Franco have taken the pineapple express to Oscar credibility.

As if expanding the Best Picture nominee pool and potentially nixing the Best Song category wasn't enough to modernize the usually staid Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences, surely its welcoming of cinema's preeminent bong jokesters is. Rogen and Franco are two of 134 new artists and movie industry executives who have been extended invitations to join the Academy and, in doing so, secure voting rights for all future Oscar ceremonies beginning in 2010.

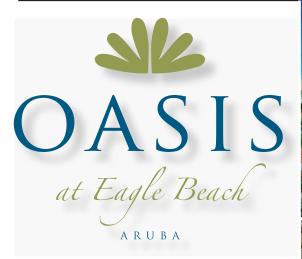
The smokin' Pineapple Express duo are joined by fellow Judd Apatow repertory players Michael Cera, Paul Rudd and Jane Lynch, along with Casey Affleck, Viola Davis, Anne Hathaway, Emily Blunt, Taraji P. Henson, James McAvoy, Tyler Perry, Danny Boyle, Emile Hirsch, Michelle Williams, Amy Ryan, Slumdog soundtracker A.R. Rahman, Peter Gabriel, Tom Cruise's producing partner-in-crime, Paula Wagner, Milk man Dustin Lance Black and Mr. Oscar himself, Hugh Jackman.

"These filmmakers have, over the course of their careers, captured the imagination of audiences around the world," AMPAS head honcho Sid Ganis said in a statement. "It's this kind of talent and creativity that make up the Academy, and I welcome each of them to our ranks."

The new members, which keeps the Academy's voting membership to just under 6,000, will be welcomed at an invitation-only reception in Beverly Hills this September.







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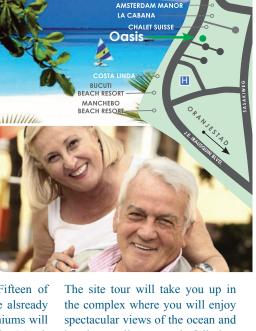
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Wednesday, July 1, 2009

Fans gather for Apollo Theater's Jackson memorial

JENNIFER PELTZ Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK of Thousands Michael Jackson fans converged on Harlem's famed Apollo Theater Tuesday for a public tribute to the performer, photographs, clutching cheering and dancing to his music at the legendary venue that launched the one-time child star's career.

Activist the Rev. Al Sharpton gave a rousing speech praising the pop star to hundreds of fans who crammed into the theater as others waited in line outside to pay their respects.

"Michael made young men and women all over the world imitate us," Sharpton said. "Before Michael, we were limited and ghettoized. But Michael put on a colorful military outfit, he pulled his pants up, he put on the one glove, and he smashed the barriers of segregated music." A black fedora with a white glove draped across its brim sat on a lone stool on the theater's stage, surrounded by elaborate arrangements of white lilies.

Fans left teddy bears, letters and homemade posters compiled from various images of the star.

One carried a sign that said: "Michael we never can say goodbye: no no no no."

Constance Percival, who decades earlier camped out in front of Madison Square Garden to get tickets for a show during Jackson's "Bad" tour, had tears in her eyes after attending the Apollo tribute.

Continued on Page B5



Crowds line up outside the Apollo Theater to pay tribute to Michael Jackson, in New York, Tuesday, June 30, 2009.

Associated Press

California pollution rule approved



This Sept. 22, 2006 file photo shows the Conoco Oil Refinery in Rodeo, Calif. at sunset. California refineries, utilities and companies that tap into natural gas pipelines are facing a new levy designed to pay for the state's landmark law to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The \$36.2 million fee is expected to be approved Thursday, June 25, 2009, by California air regulators in what would amount to the country's first statewide carbon fee.

H. JOSEF HEBERT Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Environmental Protection Agency took a major step toward tougher reductions in greenhouse gas emission from cars and trucks Tuesday by

Associated Press giving the state of California the green light to impose new requirements that could become the national model for combatting tailpipe pollution linked to global warming.

Continued on Next Page

Republican concedes, sending Franken to Senate



Former Republican Sen. Norm Coleman laughed at a question as he addressed the media Tuesday, June 30, 2009 at his St. Paul, Minn., home after the Minnesota Supreme Court ruled that Democrat Al Franken won the contested U.S. Senate race in Minnesota. At left is his daughter Sarah.

Associated Press

BRIAN BAKST

Associated Press Writer

ST. PAUL, Minnesota (AP) — Republican Norm Coleman conceded to Democrat Al Franken in Minnesota's contested Senate race Tuesday, hours after a unanimous state Supreme Court ruled the former "Saturday Night Live" comedian should be certified the winner.

Continued on Page B4



A relative waits for news outside the El Maruf Hospital in Moroni, Comoros Tuesday, June 30, 2009. A Yemenia Airbus jet with 153 people on board crashed into the Indian Ocean on Tuesday as it tried to land during strong winds on the island nation of Comoros.

Associated Press

Yemeni plane with 153 crashes off Comoros Isles

AHMED AL-HAJ

TOM MALITI

Associated Press Writers

MORONI, Comoros (AP) — A Yemeni jetliner carrying 153 people crashed in the Indian Ocean on Tuesday as it came in for a landing on the island nation of Comoros. Yemeni officials said a teenage girl survived.

Continued on Page B7

Wednesday, July 1, 2009 U.P. FRONT



CALIFORNIA Continued from Page B1

The EPA granted California's long-standing request — denied by the Bush administration — for a waiver to allow it to pursue more a stringent air pollution rules than required by the federal government. It cleared the way to implement immediately a 2002 state pollution law requiring new cars to increase their fuel economy 40 percent by 2016.

Sate regulations to implement the law have been in limbo for five years because the Bush administration refused to provide a waiver required by the federal Clean Air Act. Thirteen other states and the city of Washington have said they want to impose the same requirements as California once the EPA gave the goahead

"This decision puts the law and science first," EPA administrator Lisa Jackson said in a statement, suggesting that Stephen Johnson, her predecessor at EPA had ignore historic and traditional legal interpretations on how the Clean Air Act should address the issue when he denied the

waiver in March, 2008.

Granting California's request "is consistent with the Clean Air Act as it has been used for the last 40 years," said Jackson.

"After being asleep at the wheel ... the federal government has finally stepped up," said California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, noting the state first requested the waiver in December, 2005.

The California regulation requires automakers to increase the fuel economy of cars and trucks sold in the state by 40 percent to an average of 35.5 miles per gallon (15 kilometers a liter) by 2016. Improve auto fuel efficiency results in less carbon dioxide being emitted from vehicle tailpipes because less fuel is burned for every mile traveled.

The EPA decision also is viewed as setting the stage for toward tougher national vehicle fuel economy requirements promised by President Barack Obama in May when he announced an agreement to push through federal standards at least as stringent as those being enacted in California.

Jackson said the California waiver decision "reinforces the historic

agreement on nationwide emission standards" announced by Obama last May. That agreement has the support of automakers, many of the states and environmentalists. Obama said he wanted nationwide regulations boosting the average fuel economy of new cars and small trucks to be 35.5 miles per gallon by 2016, four ahead of what Congress required as part of a new energy law in 2007.

But automakers reacted cautiously to Tuesday's action.

"We are hopeful the granting of this waiver will not undermine the enormous efforts put forth to create the national program," said Dave McCurdy, president of the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers in a statement.

He said the federal approach agreed to in May "moves us towards a policy that ensures that consumers in all 50 states have access to highly fuel efficient vehicles at an affordable price."

But environmentalists said the decision to give California the goahead for putting into place its emission requirements was long overdue and essential for developing the national program.



U.S. NEWS B3 Wednesday, July 1, 2009

Administration sends Congress consumer law

ANNE FLAHERTY
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama asked Congress on Tuesday to create a new U.S. agency to police the fine print on credit card bills and mortgage documents and determine what fees, penalties and interest rates are fair.

The Consumer Financial Protection Agency would be in charge of regulating credit cards, savings accounts and mortgages in the same way other government agencies regulate the safety of drugs, food and toys.

Obama said Americans are demanding it.

"Those ridiculous contracts with pages of fine print that no one can figure out — those things will be a thing of the past," the president said in a statement accompanying the 152-page draft bill. "And enforcement will be the rule, not the exception."

The proposal is part of broader plan by Obama to increase oversight of the financial and industry eliminate regulatory gaps believed to have contributed to the economic crisis. The plan would be the most sweeping rewrite of the government rule book since the 1930s, although lawmakers are split on whether it does enough to streamline the complex system.

Republicans and bankers, however, already are balking and gearing up for a fight.

Part of the agency's mission would be to implement new restrictions on credit card companies passed by Congress this spring. That law prohibited arbitrary rate hikes and limited access to cards by minors.

The consumer protection agency also would regulate high-rate "payday loans" and the terms on savings, checking and debit card accounts, including overdraft charges.

Under the plan, lenders would be required to be up front about their products, potentially applying warning labels to risky products like mortgage payments that balloon in the future.

The agency's creation would extend federal oversight to a market that so far has mostly escaped it. Confusing and risky mortgages are blamed for contributing to the housing crisis that roiled Wall Street and resulted in a \$700 billion taxpayer bailout for banks.

Democrats in Congress have embraced the idea of a consumer financial watchdog as a way of showing voters they are on their side during tough economic times.

Rep. Barney Frank, a Democrat and chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, called the proposal one of his highest priorities and said his panel would consider it in July as part of a broader effort to overhaul federal regulations on the entire financial industry.

Sen. Christopher Dodd, who faces a tough re-election fight next year, also vowed to steer the proposal through the Senate Banking Committee he chairs despite staunch opposition from the banking industry. "It is unbelievable that some of the same irresponsible actors that helped create the current financial mess would argue that we are doing too much for consumers," said Dodd, a Democrat.

Republicans and financial executives counter that setting strict rules on the consumer market will limit options for buyers and potentially increase the cost of financial products as banks try to make up for lost revenue.

Rep. Spencer Bachus, the top Republican on the House Financial Services Committee, said the bill could give consumers a false sense of security when it comes to selecting financial products.

"The proposed CFPA appears to be premised on the idea that Washington is better at making financial decisions for all Americans than leaving that choice up to individual Americans," he said.

Senate Banking Committee Chairman Sen. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., right, and House Financial Services Committee Chairman Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., speak with the press outside the White House in Washington, Wednesday, June 17, 2009, following President Barack Obama's remarks on the new comprehensive regulatory reform plan.

Associated Press

Steve Bartlett, president of the Financial Services Roundtable, said the new agency would end up increasing the costs of financial products, reduce consumer choices and "stifle innovation and increase confusion" on the part of consumers.

Proponents of the agency say its creation does not have to mean fewer products on the market.

Elizabeth Warren, a Harvard University professor who long has advocated creation of a consumer-protection agency, said she envisions a system that would allow products to remain available as long as lenders are up front and concise about their terms.

For example, the agency could allow banks to offer mortgages with ballooning monthly payments as long as lenders compare their terms to a traditional fixed-rate mortgage.

Warren said she thinks most Federal Reserve.

consumers would have stayed away from many of the risky mortgages that contributed to the housing crisis had they understood them better.

"Most of the bad products were marketed by trickery," she said. Likewise, Treasury Department officials said the agency's goal would not necessarily be to lay a heavy hand on industry. The legislation explicitly requires the CFPA to consider the burden any new rule would place on a financial institution and whether it would restrict consumer access to credit.

Compliance would be enforced through penalties, but the CFPA also would require an annual operating budget, which has yet to be disclosed. The agency would be independent of other government agencies that now share those oversight duties and take away some power from some, most notably the Federal Reserve.







Wednesday, July 1, 2009 POLITICS



Democrat Al Franken, right, with his wife Frannie Franken smile as they meet the media at their house in MInneapolis Tuesday June 30, 2009 after the Minnesota Supreme Court ruled in favor of the Democrat in the Senate race against Republican Norm Coleman.

Associated Press

REPUBLICAN CONCEDES Continued from Pag B1

Coleman announced his decision at a news conference in St. Paul, bringing an end to a nearly eight-month recount and court fight over an election decided by only a few hundred votes.

"The Supreme Court has made its decision and I will abide by the results," Coleman told reporters outside his St. Paul home.

Franken, accompanied by his wife, told reporters outside his downtown Minneapolis town house that "Franni and I are so thrilled that we can finally celebrate this victory."

"I can't wait to get started," he added.

"I've been trying to keep abreast of what's going on, and I'll do the best I can"

Coleman, appearing relaxed and upbeat, said he had congratulated Franken, was at peace with his decision to concede and had no regrets about the fight, which started almost immediately after the Nov. 4 election.

"Sure I wanted to win," said Coleman, who called the ruling a surprise. "I thought we had a better case. But the court has spoken."

He declined to talk about his future plans, brushing aside

CIGARS

9:00am - 11:00pm

a question about whether he would run for governor in 2010.

With Franken and the usual backing of two independents, Democrats would have a big enough majority to overcome Republican delaying tactics on legislative votes in the U.S. Senate.

The White House issued a statement saying President Barack Obama looks "forward to working with Senator-Elect Franken to build a new foundation for growth and prosperity by lowering health care costs and investing in the kind of clean energy jobs and industries that will help America lead in the 21st century."

According to Betty K. Koed, the assistant Senate historian, the 60-vote majority marks the first time either political party has reached that level since the late 1970s.

Coleman's appeal hinged largely on an argument that local election officials had inconsistently applied the state's requirements for absentee voters. He and his lawyers had hoped to bring thousands of disqualified absentee votes into the count, but the state's high court sided with a lower court and rejected that argument.

Because voting absentee is an option, voters who choose to do so have to comply with the law, the justices wrote. And they said there was no valid reason to apply a more lenient standard in judging absentees, as Coleman wanted, than the law required.

"Because strict compliance with the statutory requirements for absentee voting is, and always has been required, there is no basis on which voters could have reasonably believed that anything less than strict compliance would suffice."

lruba TODAY

Coleman could have carried his fight into the federal courts, but it was unlikely a federal court would have overturned the state Supreme Court decision. That possibility created months of intrigue over whether Gov. Tim Pawlenty would sign an election certificate if Coleman continued an appeal — a possibility that quickly became moot with Coleman's concession

Pawlenty said he would sign the certificate later Tuesday.

Franken declared his candidacy more than two years ago, and he and Coleman have combined to spend \$50 million in pursuit of the seat. That's more than double what it cost candidates in 2002, when Coleman won the seat that had been held by the late Paul Wellstone.

Legal group sending Sotomayor documents to Senate

JULIE HIRSCHFELD DAVIS Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Puerto Rican civil rights leader says his group is ready to start sending a trove of documents from Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor's past to the Senate panel considering her nomination.

LatinoJustice PRLDEF President Cesar Perales says he is sending the Judiciary Committeeminutesofmeetings Sotomayor participated in as a board member of the group from 1980 until 1992. The organization is also turning over pleadings in cases it handled while Sotomayor headed its litigation group.

Conservatives and Republicans have criticized Sotomayor's involvement with the group, which crusaded for bilingual education, strongly supported

With the pillars of the Supreme Court in the distance, Congressional Hispanic Caucus Chair Rep. Nydia M. Velazquez, D-N.Y., praises the life and work of Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor, Friday, June 26, 2009, on Capitol Hill in Washington. If confirmed. Sotomayor, who is of Puerto Rican descent, would become the Supreme Court's first Hispanic justice, and its third female justice. Rep. Velazquez was the first Puerto Rican woman to be elected to Congress.

Associated Press

abortion rights and opposed the death penalty.



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U.S. REGIONAL B5
Wednesday, July 1, 2009

What about an early French dinner?

EARLY BIRD 3 Course Menu

Appetizer - Entrée - Dessert

5-7 pm



APOLLO

Continued from Page B1

"Seeing people united for Michael shows that the world can come together as one," the 33-year-old Brooklyn resident said, looking at the multiracial crowd that turned out to honor the artist who had a hit with a song with the lyric, "it don't matter if you're black or white."

Among those moved to dance was film director Spike Lee, who joined Sharpton on stage to groove to "ABC" and "Rockin' Robin."

The line outside stretched 10 blocks north to 135th Street at one point, organizers said. Some fans sang their favorite songs and danced in the street as they waited.

"I thought that in my time I'd have the opportunity to see him in concert," said Victoria Campomames, who did a brief moonwalk on the sidewalk as "Rock With You" played from a nearby store

"This is about the closest I'm gonna get."

Camponames, wearing a Jackson-style spangled black jacket, fedora and white gloves, took the day off from her job at a grocery store in Morrisville, Vermont, for the all-day tribute at the fabled venue that helped make him a star.

Thousands were paying their respects at the theater, which was letting in 600 people at a time to listen to Jackson's music, watch a video tribute and leave flowers and memorabilia.

The event seemed half concert and half family reunion. Even a security staffer or two could be seen dancing in the aisle.

The tribute began shortly after 2 p.m. EDT (1800 GMT), but many people had lined up hours earlier.

Ebony Johnson, 19, arrived at midnight to secure a spot near the front of the line, clutching a Jackson scrapbook she started when she was 14.

An image of the star was tattooed on her left arm. She said she got the tattoo last month in anticipation of his planned comeback shows in London.

"I love him so much — I can't explain that in words," she said. "I felt like Michael was my family."

Admirers wrote messages on a wall of remembrance outside the 125th street theater. "God bless and be with you M. Jackson," wrote one fan. "We all share your grief. Love always," read a message to his family.

Fans began assembling at the Apollo soon after Jackson's death Thursday in Los Angeles. It has continued to serve as an impromptu memorial site ever since.

The pop icon's ties to the theater go back to 1967, when The Jackson 5 won the Apollo's Amateur Night contest. The appearance is credited with helping to launch the brother act's career, which later propelled Jackson to solo stardom.

Jackson last appeared at the Apollo in 2002, invited by former President Bill Clinton for a Democratic National Committee fundraiser.

The Apollo also played a role in remembrances for James Brown after his death in 2006, hosting a public viewing of the "Godfather of Soul" for thousands of fans.

Gunmen fire on group of Detroit teens, wounding 7

By JEFF KAROUB Associated Press Writer

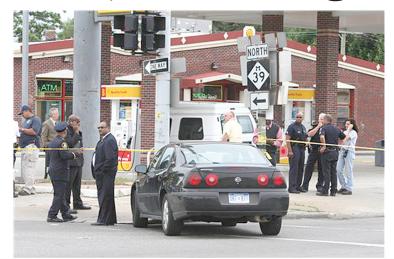
DETROIT – Gunmen in a green minivan opened fire on a group of teenagers waiting at a bus stop near a Detroit school on Tuesday, wounding seven including two who were in critical condition, authorities said.

Five of the teens had just left Cody Ninth Grade Academy, where they were taking summer classes, when they were shot at the nearby bus stop.

The gunmen exited a vehicle and "asked for a person by name" before they "opened fire at the crowd," said Detroit Public Schools Police Chief Roderick Grimes.

Detroit Police were looking for two suspects in a green minivan, said spokesman Rod Liggons.

Officers were interviewing some of the victims in the hospital Tuesday evening, he



Law enforcement officials look over the scene in west Detroit where gunmen in a green minivan opened fire on a group of teenagers waiting at a bus stop near a Detroit school on Tuesday, June 30, 2009. The gunmen wounded at least seven including two who were in critical condition, authorities said.

Associated Press

said.

Four boys and three girls ranging in age from 14 to 17 years old were hospitalized, two of them — a 16-year-old boy and a 17-year-old female — in critical condition, said Deputy Chief James Tolbert.

Gas station owner Steve Hakim

said he saw two people with T-shirts covering their heads run across his lot toward the bus stop. Then he heard about 10 gunshots, saw a boy and a girl fall down and called 911.

"It's pretty scary," Hakim said. "Somebody's got to do something."





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Wednesday, July 1, 2009 WORLD NEWS

Aruba_TOD/AY

Iraqis celebrate U.S. pullback but bombing kills 33



People gather at the site of a car bomb attack in Kirkuk, Iraq, Tuesday, June 30. 2009. The bombing comes as Iraqis celebrate what the government is calling National Sovereignty Day to mark the withdrawal of U.S. combat troops from Iraqi cities.

HAMZA HENDAWI
Associated Press Writer

Associated Press
BAGHDAD (AP) — Not a single American soldier was



in sight. Gone, too, were the American helicopters whose buzz has for years defined Baghdad's background track. Left alone to protect the capital Tuesday were thousands of Iraqi troops and police manning checkpoints, with army tanks deployed at potential trouble spots and convoys of pickup trucks with machine guns roaming the streets.

But it was elsewhere, 180 miles (290 kilometers) to the north, that militants delivered their first deadly challenge to Iraq's security forces on a highly symbolic day after the formal withdrawal of U.S. combat troops from cities at midnight.

A car bombing devastated a food market in the city of Kirkuk, killing at least 33 people and wounding 90. The early evening attack, which bore the hallmarks of Sunni extremist groups like al-Qaida in Iraq, was the second in the Kirkuk area since a truck bombing killed 82 people on June 20.

The latest blast was a deadly example of the violence many Iraqis fear will increase with the departure of U.S. troops from urban areas, despite Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's confidence in Iraq's nascent security forces.

The bombing came hours after the U.S. military announced that four American soldiers were killed in combat Monday. It was the deadliest attack on U.S. forces since May 21, when three soldiers were killed and nine wounded in a roadside bombing in Baghdad.

"It reminds me that there are still dangers out there," Gen. Ray Odierno, the top U.S. soldier in Iraq, said of the American deaths. "There are still people out there who do not want the government of Iraq to succeed."

The violence marred what otherwise was a festive occasion as Iraqis commemorated the newly declared National Sovereignty Day with military parades and marching bands in the capital. Colorful paper balls and Iraqi flags were hoisted on blast walls at checkpoints as patriotic songs blared from

loudspeakers on sidewalks. Plastic flowers and streamers decorated police and army vehicles. One car had a red heart with the English word "Love" in the middle, as if for Valentine's Day.

Some policemen danced atop their vehicles as they moved in convoys across the capital. Traffic was light in Baghdad, but particularly thorough searches at some checkpoints meant long lines of waiting cars in parts of the city.

No matter.

"I felt it was normal for an Iraqi soldier, rather than an American, to order me to stop for a search," said Ali Mohsen, a 30-year-old government employee from the mostly Shiite New Baghdad district. "The Americans' cowboy style was annoying," said Mohsen, recounting his car journey to his brother's home in eastern Baghdad.

"I hope our forces will be up to the task so we can return to normalcy," he said.

Any failure on their part could plunge the country into a new round of sectarian warfare that could seal Iraq's fate for years. Success would allow reconstruction projects to go ahead and give leaders of Iraq's rival ethnic and religious groups space to negotiate an enduring power-sharing formula.

Iraqi authorities welcomed the U.S. pullback with nationalist rhetoric and celebrations in what appeared to be an attempt by al-Maliki to rally the public behind his government and secure more support ahead of an election in January.

Al-Maliki, whose three years in office saw a dramatic decline in violence, used a nationally televised address to project an air of confidence.

"Those who think that Iraqis are incapable of protecting security in their country and that the withdrawal of foreign forces will leave a security vacuum which will be difficult for Iraqi forces to fill are making a grave mistake," the prime minister said.

In Washington, President In a videous Barack Obama declared Pentagon Tuesday that "Iraq's future is in the hands of its own people," figure for warning of more violence in behind.

the days ahead but signaling optimism that Iraq will prevail as a stable, sovereign nation.

"The Iraqi people are rightly treating this as a cause for celebration," Obama said. "The future belongs to those who build, not to those who destroy."

Obama predicted new flareups of violence, citing the "senseless bombing" in Kirkuk — the latest in a series of attacks that have killed close to 300 people since June 20.

"Make no mistake," Obama said, "there will be difficult days ahead."

At a news conference, Odierno charged that Iran was continuing to support and train militants in Iraq who attack U.S. and Iraqi forces with rockets and roadside bombs.

"They have not stopped and I don't think they will stop," Odierno said. "I think many of the attacks in Baghdad are from individuals that have been in fact funded or trained by the Iranians."

The U.S. pullback is a significant step toward the final American withdrawal from Iraq by the end of 2011, a deadline set by a U.S.-Iraqi security agreement.

A small number of the more than 130,000 U.S. troops in Iraq will remain in the cities as trainers and advisers, and the military has said it will continue to provide intelligence, air power, medical and logistical assistance to Iraq's fledgling, 650,000-member security force. U.S. troops will go back into cities on missions only if requested by the Iraqis.

U.S. military officials have been purposely vague about the size and composition of the U.S. force that will stay on in urban areas. Publicizing a number, no matter how small, could irritate some Iraqis for whom the U.S. pullback is a proud moment of national significance. And if those troops' job description sounds too much like current combat operations, it could undermine the U.S. rationale for the withdrawal.

In a video conference with Pentagon reporters Tuesday, Odierno refused to give a figure for the force staying behind.



WORLD NEWS B7 Wednesday, July 1, 2009



COMOROS ISLES Continued from Page B1

The crash came two years after aviation officials reported faults with the plane, an Airbus 310 flying the last leg of a journey from Paris and Marseille to Comoros, with a stop in Yemen to change planes. Most of the passengers were from Comoros, a former French colony. Sixty-six on board were French nationals.

Khaled el-Kaei, the head of Yemenia airline's public relations office, said a 14-year-old girl survived the crash. And Yemen's embassy in Washington issued a statement saying a young girl survived and was taken to a hospital. It also said five bodies were recovered.

There were earlier reports that a 5-year-old boy survived. El-Kaei said that was not known and the airline had lost contact with its office in Comoros because of bad weather.

Yemeni civil aviation deputy chief Mohammed Abdul Qader said the flight data recorder had not been found and it was too early to speculate on the cause of the crash. But he said the wind was 40 mph as the plane was landing in the middle of the night.

"The weather was very bad," he said, adding the windy conditions hampered rescue efforts.

The Yemenia plane was the second Airbus to crash into the sea this month. An Air France Airbus A330-200 crashed into the Atlantic Ocean on June 1, killing all 228 people on board, as it flew from Rio de Janeiro to Paris.

The Comoros is an archipelago of three main islands situated 1,800 miles south of Yemen, between Africa's southeastern coast and the island of Madagascar. It is a former French colony of 700,000 people.

In France, school vacations began this week and many on the plane were heading home to visit.

Gen. Bruno de Bourdoncle de Saint-Salvy, the senior commander for French forces in the southern Indian Ocean, said the Airbus 310 crashed in deep waters about 9 miles north of the Comoran coast and 21 miles from the Moroni airport.

French aviation inspectors found a "number of faults" during a 2007 inspection of the plane that went down, French Transport Minister Dominique Bussereau said.

In Brussels, EU Transport Commissioner Antonio Tajani said the airline had previously met EU safety checks and was not on the bloc's blacklist. But he said a full investigation was now being started amid questions why passengers were put on another jet in the Yemeni capital of San'a.

An Airbus statement said the plane that crashed went into service 19 years ago, in 1990, and had accumulated 51,900 flight hours. It has been operated by Yemenia since 1999. Airbus said it was sending a team of specialists to the Comoros.

The A310-300 is a twin-engine widebody jet that can seat up to 220 passengers.

There are 214 A310s in service worldwide with 41 operators.

A crisis center was set up at Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris. Many passengers were from the French city of Marseille, home to around 80,000 immigrant Comorans, more even than Comoros' capital of Moroni.

Some French Comorans insisted that their earlier warnings about the airline's safety weren't heeded by authorities.

Stephane Salord, the Comoros' honorary consul in Marseille, called Yemenia's aircraft "flying cattle trucks."

"This A310 is a plane that has posed problems for a long time, it is absolutely inadmissible that this airline Yemenia played with the lives of its passengers this way," he said.

"Some people stand the whole way to Moroni," said Mohamed Ali, a Comoran who went to Yemenia's headquarters in Paris to try to get more information. Thou Djoumbe, a 28-year-old woman who lives in the French town of Fontainebleau, said she and others had complained about the airline for years.

"It's a lottery when you travel to Comoros," said Djoumbe.



"We've organized boycotts, we've told the Comoran community not to fly on Yemenia airways because they make a lot of money off of us and meanwhile the conditions on the planes are disastrous."

Christophe Prazuck, French military spokesman, said a patrol boat and reconnaissance ship were being sent to the crash site as well a military transport plane. The French were sending divers as well as medical personnel, he said.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy "expressed his deep emotion" about the crash and asked the French military to help in the rescue operation, particularly from the French islands of Mayotte and Reunion.

Yemenia airline officials say the 11-member crew was made up of six Yemenis, including the pilot, two Moroccans, one Indonesian, one Ethiopian and 1 Filipino.

They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

Wednesday, July 1, 2009 WORLD NEWS

Aruba TODAY

nited Nations tells Honduras to reinstate presider

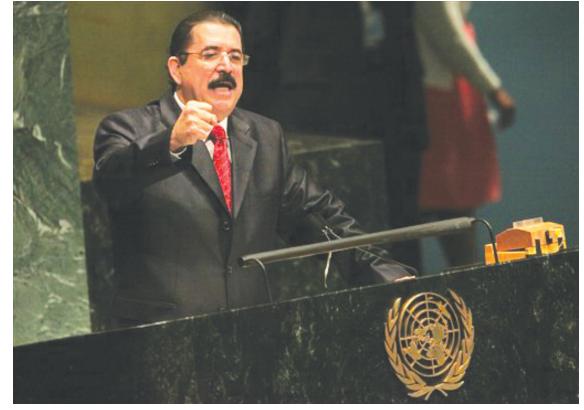
WILL WEISSERT

Associated Press Writer

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP) — Honduras' ousted president won overwhelming international support Tuesday as he planned a high-profile return to his chaotic country. The politicians who sent soldiers to fly him into exile in his pajamas said he will be arrested for treason if he tries.

The showdown was building to a climax as the presidents of Argentina and Ecuador signed on to accompany President Manuel Zelaya on a flight to Honduras on Thursday. Attorney General Luis Alberto Rubi said Zelaya would be seized "as soon as he sets foot on Honduran soil" and face 20 years in prison on charges that also include abuse of authority. "I'm going back to calm people down. I'm going to try to open a dialogue and put things in order," Zelaya said at the United Nations. "When I'm back, people are going to say ... 'commander, we're at your service' and the army will have to correct itself. There's no other possibility."

The U.N. General Assembly voted by acclamation to demand Zelaya's immediate restoration, and the Organization of



Manuel Zelaya, the ousted president of Honduras, addresses the U.N. General Assembly, Tuesday, June 30, 2009. Zelaya was forced into exile in Costa Rica after soldiers stormed his palace early last Sunday morning.

American States was meeting to fenced off the area around consider suspending Honduras the presidential palace, where

security forces used tear gas and water cannons Monday against Zelaya supporters, injuring and

arresting dozens.

The interim president named by Congress, Roberto Micheletti, said Zelaya could be arrested for violating the constitution if he returns. Zelaya had defied the Supreme Court and called a referendum on constitutional change that opponents worried would lead to Zelaya prolonging his presidency.

Zelava backed down from the referendum on Tuesday, saying at the United Nations that he would no longer push for the constitutional changes he had wanted.

"I'm not going to hold a constitutional assembly," he said. "And if I'm offered the chance to stay in power, I won't. I'm going to serve my four years."

He said he would then go back to being a farmer — a humble description considering the wealth he has accumulated in ranching and agribusiness.

"I come from the countryside and I'm going to go back to the countryside," he said.

But Micheletti said it was he who would serve out Zelaya's term.

"We thank God for not letting democracy be interrupted in our country," Micheletti told some 5,000 cheering supporters in white and blue, the colors of the Honduran flag. Flanked by soldiers in camouflage, he said: "The heroes of this democratic day are the soldiers."

Associated Press

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, Zelaya's top ally, said any aggression toward Zelaya from Micheletti's government should prompt a military intervention by the United Nations.

A pro-Zelaya crowd of about equal size marched toward the presidential palace, now protected by a chain-link fence and more than 500 soldiers and police. They dispersed as rain began to fall in the late afternoon with no reports of violence — a contrast with Monday when Zelaya said more than 150 were injured and 50 arrested. Micheletti's government didn't release figures.

Micheletti's foreign minister, Enrique Ortez, threw a wild card onto the table, telling CNN en Espanol that Zelaya had been letting drug traffickers ship U.S.-bound cocaine from Venezuela through Honduras. Ortez said the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration was aware of Zelaya's ties to organized crime.

Spokesman Rusty Payne could neither confirm nor deny a DEA investigation.

The United States stood firmly by Zelaya, however, with State Department spokesman Ian Kelly saying Washington sees no acceptable solution other than Zelaya's return to power.

He said the United States is considering cutting off its aid to Honduras, which includes \$215 million over four years from the U.S.-funded Millennium Challenge Corporation.

The U.N. vote added to an avalanche of international denunciations of the military's removal of Zelaya on Sunday, which recalled the dark days of dictatorship for which Latin America was long notorious. The world body called on all 192 U.N. member states to recognize only Zelaya's government in Honduras.

The Organization of American States planned an emergency meeting in Washington hours later to reinforce the pressure to reinstate Zelaya. Some members — such as Venezuela - want to suspend Honduras under an agreement meant to prevent military coups, while others — including Colombia — argue that while the OAS should condemn the coup, suspending Honduras would be interventionist.

Mexico Colombia's and conservative governments joined the region's leftist leaders in condemning Zelaya's removal. Blocked trucks began lining up along Honduras' neighboring borders as countries imposed a trade ban. Some local television stations remained off the air and local media carried few reports of demonstrations in Zelaya's favor, apparently under government pressure. Ortez said freedom of expression was in full force but did not directly address the closure of stations or the temporary detention of journalists.

The U.S. military, which has close ties to Honduran commanders, tried to avoid getting caught up in the dispute. It ordered most of its 800 personnel to remain inside the Soto Cano air base, 60 miles north of Tegucigalpa, allowing only "mission-essential" tasks, Southern Command spokesman Jose Ruiz said in Miami.

Honduras receives about \$1 million a year from the United States to fight drug trafficking and Soto Cano is a key base in the fight against drugs. There's also a contingent of DEA agents in country. U.S. and Honduran officials estimate about 100 tons of Colombian cocaine pass through Honduras annually on their way to the United States



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Muna 593-4

WORLD NEWS | B9 | Wednesday, July 1, 2009

urkish prosecutors seek arrest of colonel

prosecutor in Turkey on Tuesday demanded the arrest of a navy colonel on suspicion of conspiring to discredit the Islamic-rooted government.

The case highlights tensions between the government and the staunchly secular military, whose prosecutors earlier said there was no evidence implicating Navy Col. Dursun Cicek. On Friday, parliament passed a law empowering civilian courts, not military ones, to prosecute military personnel in peacetime.

Civilian prosecutors questioned nine officers on Tuesday, but only asked for the arrest of Cicek by a court, the staterun Anatolia news agency said. It did not provide details on what charges he

Also Tuesday, Prime Minister Recep

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — A civilian Tayyip Erdogan, President Abdullah Gul and Gen. Ilker Basbug, the military chief, held a seven-hour meeting of the National Security Council. They discussed the alleged military conspiracy in which Cicek was implicated.

> "Reactions and thoughts have been expressed against statements and media reports that are aimed at fraying the state's institutions," the council said in a statement without elaborating.

> "It has been noted that these kind of activities would not benefit our country," it said.

> The alleged conspiracy came to light in Taraf newspaper, which printed a document said to be a blueprint for a smear campaign against Erdogan's party, including the use of the media to make it appear as corrupt and acting

against its Islamic principles.

The document also discrediting pro-government cleric Fethullah Gulen, who lives in the U.S., by arranging for the discovery of weapons and ammunition in houses of his supporters.

Cicek had denied that he had compiled such a plan and said the signature beneath the document was not his.

Military-backed secular elites fear Erdogan's party is trying to dismantle the secular political system in the predominantly Muslim country.

The military, which has staged coups in the past, regards itself as the guardian of secularism. Its political profile has been curtailed in recent years, as Turkey seeks to join the European Union. The military says it supports the country's EU bid.



Turkey's Chief of Staff Gen. Ilker Basbug arrives for a meeting with Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Ankara, Turkey, Monday, June 29. 2009. The two met amid tensions between the staunchly secular military and the Islamic-rooted government.

Associated Press



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Wednesday, July 1, 2009 SPORTS

4rubu TODAY

NL Roundup

Lincecum shutout helps Giants to 10-0 victory

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Tim Lincecum threw a two-hitter for his third complete game of the season and Travis Ishikawa homered in San Francisco's 10-0 rout of St. Louis on Monday night.

Lincecum tied teammate Matt Cain for the league lead in complete games and his 2.37 ERA is second in the NL after his third career shutout and fifth career complete game. He threw 95 pitches.

Brad Thompson took the loss for the Cardinals, who have lost five of six.

Lincecum retired the first 14 hitters in order before Rick Ankiel singled to center with two outs in the fifth.

Edgar Renteria's three-run double capped a five-run seventh as the Giants batted



San Francisco Giants starting pitcher Tim Lincecum watches his throw to first for the out after he fielded a grounder by St. Louis Cardinals' Jason LaRue during the fifth inning of a baseball game Monday, June 29, 2009, in St. Louis. Lincecum threw a two-hitter in the Giants' 10-0 victory.

Mortensen in his major league debut. Only one of the runs was earned because of a throwing error by second baseman Skip Schumaker.

Lincecum's eight strikeouts gave him the major league lead with 132 in 114 innings. Over his last eight starts, he's 5-1 with a 1.27 ERA.

Astros 3, Padres 1

At San Diego, Houston's Roy Oswalt dominated the Padres again, pitching a two-hitter and retiring his final 18 batters. Ivan Rodriguez homered and Oswalt (4-4) helped himself with two hits. The right-hander improved to 10-2 with a 2.68 ERA against the Padres in 15 career appearances, including 13 starts.

Continued on Next Page



Venus Williams of U.S, left, chase a return from Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland during their quarter final match at Wimbledon, Tuesday, June 30, 2009, and Dinara Safina of Russia, right, returns to Sabine Lisicki of Germany, during their quarterfinal match at Wimbledon, Tuesday, June 30, 2009. Associated Press

HOWARD FENDRICH **AP Tennis Writer**

WIMBLEDON. England (AP) — Her 19th consecutive victory at the All England Club already wrapped up, Venus Williams grabbed a seat and watched younger sister Serena win easily to reach the semifinals, too.

Afterward, Venus and Mom, Oracene Price, strolled out of Centre Court arm-in-arm, chatting and laughing.

Sure is fun to be a Williams at Wimbledon.

Five-time champion Venus beat No. 11-seeded Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland 6-1, 6-2, before two-time champion Serena defeated No. 8 Victoria Azarenka of Belarus 6-2, 6-3, a pair of overwhelming performances Tuesday that

reach Wimbledon semifinals moved the siblings closer to

another all-in-the-family final at Wimbledon.

"They are both playing superwell. They're playing 'The Williams Way," their father, Richard Williams, said. "And when you're playing 'The Williams Way,' it's very difficult for anyone to touch you."

Particularly at the grass-court Grand Slam tournament, where a Williams has won seven of the past nine championships.

If No. 3 Venus gets by No. 1 Dinara Safina of Russia in Thursday's semifinals, and No. 2 Serena eliminates No. 4 Elena Dementieva of Russia, the siblings would meet Saturday in their second consecutive final at the All England Club and fourth overall.

It also would be the eighth all-Williams Grand Slam championship match; Serena I can't watch," their dad said. leads 5-2.

Williams sisters, two Russians

"I would love it to be a Williams final," Venus said, "and so would she."

They are competitors, of course, but also form a team in many ways: The sisters are sharing a house during this tournament, practice with each other and have reached the women's doubles quarterfinals together.

"We've got it all figured out at this point," Venus said.

She is trying to become the first woman since Steffi Graf in 1991-93 to win three consecutive Wimbledon titles: Serena wants to add to the trophies she earned in 2002-03 by beating her sister in the finals.

At least one person has no doubt there will be a rematch Saturday.

"It will be. I'll go home because

"I think they both definitely make it to the final."

First things first. If the 19-yearold Azarenka and 20-year-old Radwanska represented upand-coming opponents with little experience on the sport's grandest stages — neither has reacheda Grand Slam semifinal - Safina and Dementieva are far more accustomed to playing significant matches.

On the other hand, they're not nearly as accustomed to winning them as the Williams sisters are, of course: Serena owns 10 major titles, Venus seven: Safina and Dementieva have zero. Radwanska and Azarenka failed to make things difficult Tuesday for the Williams sisters, who were at their dominant best.

"Not perfect," Price said, "but pretty close."

Continued on Page B13

SPORTS B11 Wednesday, July 1, 2009

AL Roundup

Tampa Bay ruins Halladay's return

TORONTO (AP) — Carl Crawford and Pat Burrell homered as Tampa Bay ruined Roy Halladay's return with its sixth straight victory, a 4-1 win over Toronto on Monday night.

Halladay came in having won his past seven decisions, the longest streak in the majors, but lost for the first time since April 21. The Blue Jays have lost three straight.

He was starting for the first time since June 12, when he left two pitches into the fourth inning against Florida with a

sore groin. Halladay allowed two runs and five hits in six innings, walking two and striking out seven.

Jeff Niemann won his third straight decision, allowing one run and four hits in 7 1-3 innings.

Randy Choate got the last out for his fourth save in as many chances

The Rays touched Halladay for two runs in the third on B.J. Upton's leadoff walk and Crawford's seventh homer.

Tampa Bay tacked on two runs in the seventh against Jeremy



From left, Tampa Bay Rays' Carl Crawford, B.J. Upton and Evan Longoria celebrate Crawford's two-run home run during the third inning of a baseball game against the Toronto Blue Jays in Toronto on Monday, June 29, 2009. The Rays defeated the Blue Jays 4-1.

Associated Press

Accardo when Burrell led off with a homer and Upton hit a sacrifice fly.

Angels 5, Rangers 2

At Arlington, Texas, Juan Rivera and Kendry Morales hit back-to-back home runs that helped the AL West-leading Los Angeles Angels to their sixth straight win.

The first five Angels reached to start the sixth against Vicente Padilla. After Vladimir Guerrero's leadoff single, Rivera and Morales homered to put Los Angeles up 4-2. Chone Figgins drove in another run with a sacrifice

The Rangers have lost eight of 11, a slide that cost them the division lead they had held since May 5. Los Angeles, which has won 13 of 16 overall, took over first place Saturday and now leads by 2½ games.

Rookie right-hander Sean O'Sullivan allowed consecutive homers to David Murphy and Marlon Byrd in the third, but no other runs in his six innings.

Brian Fuentes worked the ninth for his major league-best 22nd save.

O'Sullivan, in his third major league start, struck out five and walked two.

Red Sox 4, Orioles 0

At Baltimore, Jon Lester pitched seven shutout innings and J.D. Drew came within a double of hitting for the cycle for Boston.

Jonathan Papelbon got the final out with two on to earn

his 132nd career save, tying Bob Stanley for the most in Red Sox history. Papelbon has 19 saves this season in 20 opportunities.

Lester gave up five hits, struck out eight and walked none. He is 8-0 with a 2.18 ERA against Baltimore in 10 career starts.

Drew tripled and scored in the first inning, hit a tworun homer in the fourth and singled in the sixth. Needing a double in the eighth inning to become the first Red Sox player since John Valentin in 1996 to hit for the cycle, Drew grounded out to second.

Rookie Jason Berken gave up four runs and eight hits, walked two and hit two in five innings.

At Cleveland, Gavin Floyd shut out Cleveland on five singles over 7 2-3 innings as Chicago climbed back to .500 by handing the Indians their 11th loss in 13 games.

Floyd, who started the season by losing four of his first six decisions, improved to 3-0 in June, 4-1 since May 22 and has a 1.39 ERA in his last eight starts.

Jermaine Dye and Gordon Beckham had RBI singles off Carl Pavano (6-7) as the White Sox (38-38) won for the 10th time in 14 games.

The last-place Indians have dropped three straight and only avoided their fifth shutout with a three-run ninth as Shin Soo-Choo homered off Matt Thornton and Garko hit a two-run, two-out shot off Octavio Dotel.

At Kansis City, Miguel Olivo homered, tripled and drove in two runs and Luke Hochevar overcame some shaky moments in seven scoreless innings as Kansas City ended a five-game home losing streak. The Royals missed a few early chances against Twins starter Nick Blackburn before breaking open a tight game on consecutive homers by Alberto Callaspo and Olivo in

Olivo finished with three hits, a double short of the cycle.

the sixth inning.

The Royals had 12 hits and survived a two-run homer by Justin Morneau in the eighth to avoid matching their longest home losing streak in nearly two years.

Hochevar struggled early, allowing eight hitters to reach base in the first three innings. Morneau hit his 18th homer, a two-out, two-run shot off John Bale that cut Kansas City's lead to 4-2. Joakim Soria closed out the combined five-hitter, striking out the side in ninth for his 10th save.

At Oakland, California, Mark Ellis hit a two-run homer in his second game back from a two-month injury absence, and Ryan Sweeney homered and drove in two runs for the Athletics.

In other AL games it was, Boston 4, Baltimore 0; Chicago White Sox 6, Cleveland 3; Tampa Bay 4, Toronto 1; L.A. Angels 5, Texas 2; Kansas City 4, Minnesota 2; and Oakland 7, Detroit 1.□

NL ROUNDUP

Continued from Page Previous Page

His .833 winning percentage is the highest among active pitchers with at least 10 decisions against San Diego.

It was Oswalt's 17th career complete game and second this season.

Rodriguez hit his seventh home run, a solo shot to center off starter Josh Geer (1-3) that tied it 1-all in the fifth inning.

The Astros went ahead with two runs in the sixth on consecutive singles by Miguel Tejada, Lance Berkman and Carlos Lee, and a sacrifice fly by Geoff Blum.

Geer allowed three runs and eight hits in seven innings. He struck out two and walked one.

At Milwaukee, Casey McGehee hit his first career grand slam and J.J. Hardy tied a career high with four hits, including a homer, for the hosts.

The Mets have lost four straight, falling under .500 (37-38) for the first time since May 5. Fernando Nieve (3-1) gave up 11 hits and three runs in 3 1-3 innings.

Braden Looper (6-4) allowed seven hits and two walks in 6 1-3 innings.

McGehee hit his grand slam against reliever Brian Stokes for a 7-2 lead. He has hit all five of his career homers in his last 13 games.

The Brewers tacked on three runs in the seventh and eighth innings to take a 10-3 lead, but the Mets forced the Brewers to use closer Trevor Hoffman with one out in the ninth after five straight hits.

The all-time saves leader forced Brian Schneider to hit into a double play on his first pitch for his 18th save in 19 tries.

At Pittsburgh, Rich Harden repeatedly worked out of trouble to win for the first time in more than six weeks and Ryan Theriot homered for Chicago.

The Cubs were 1-6 on a 10-game trip and 14-24 overall on the road before winning their eighth in their last 10 in Pittsburgh. They have won 20 of their last 25 games there. Harden was 0-3 with a 5.64 ERA in four starts since last winning May 12. Pittsburgh stranded a combined five runners during the fifth and sixth innings, then Freddy Sanchez grounded into a double play with two on and one out in the seventh.

In other NL games it was, Chicago Cubs 3, Pittsburgh 1; Milwaukee 10, N.Y. Mets 6; Florida 4, Washington 2; San Francisco 10, St. Louis 0; Houston 3, San Diego 1; and L.A. Dodgers 4, Colorado 2, 13 innings.

Wednesday, July 1, 2009 SPORTS

Pistons fire coach Michael Curry after one season



In this April 10, 2009, Detroit Pistons head coach Michael Curry gestures during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game against the New Jersey Nets at the Palace of Auburn Hills, Mich.

Associated Press

DAVID N. GOODMAN Associated Press Writer

DETROIT (AP) — (AP) Michael Curry was fired by the Detroit Pistons on Tuesday for finishing with a losing record in his first year as coach and being swept in the first round of the NBA playoffs.

The Pistons began last season with big hopes but couldn't recover from the loss of All-Star point guard Chauncey Billups in a November trade to Denver for Allen Iverson.

The Pistons went 39-43 and exited the playoffs in four lopsided losses to the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Joe Dumars, the team's president for basketball operations, said after that

series that Curry would return.

"This was a difficult decision to make," Dumars said in a statement on Tuesday. "I want to thank Michael for his hard work and dedication to the organization. However, at this time, I have decided to make a change."

Immediately after the season, Dumars defended Curry in the face of Detroit's demise.

"It was an up-and-down season for him," Dumars said. "And, an up-and down-season for us. ...

The fact that we made so many changes for a first-year coach, I had to step back and be a little more patient than I have been.

"During the season I said to myself, 'What effect is this having on him as a first-year coach.' I tried to put myself in his shoes."

In January, Curry said he expected to be held responsible for the team's fortunes.

"It's part of the job," he said.
"When you lose, it's the coach's fault. When you win, the players get the praise."

Dumars fired coach Flip Saunders last year after he led the team to the Eastern Conference finals in each of his three seasons. Curry was an assistant under Saunders for one season.

Curry is a former president of the NBA Players Association. He played for the Pistons in 1995-1997 and 1999-2003.

Some big names, fewer big spenders in free agency



In this June 11, 2009 file photo, Orlando Magic's Hedo Turkoglu, from Turkey, celebrates a shot in the fourth quarter of Game 4 of the NBA basketball finals against the Los Angeles Lakers in Orlando, Fla. Free agency opens in the NBA on Wednesday, July 1, 2009, and the Magic appear likely to lose Turkoglu after trading for Vince Carter last week.

Associated Press

have most teams keeping their wallets closed this summer. More than a dozen have already lined themselves up to be contenders when LeBron James, Dwyane Wade, Chris Bosh and Amare Stoudemire can all become available, and may not want to waste precious salary cap space now. Back in February, Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban said he wouldn't want to be a free agent this summer. On Tuesday, he wondered if players might find it best to sign a short-term deal and try again in 2010, when there are more suitors.

"How many players will sign one year deals to be able to take advantage of the huge amount of cap room next year?" he wrote on his Twitter page. For those who do want to buy now, there is some talent worth considering.

Teams seeking a point guard could choose among Jason Kidd, Mike Bibby and Andre Miller. Those needing a good swingman can envision Ron Artest, Hedo Turkoglu, Trevor Ariza or Shawn Marion.

Allen Iverson or Ben Gordon

could provide instant offense for some team. Paul Millsap or David Lee would look nice as a young, hardworking power forward in someone's frontcourt.

Aruba TODAY

Perhaps realizing better deals weren't coming this summer, Utah's Carlos Boozer and Mehmet Okur declined to become free agents on sday. Boozer exercised his player option for next season — he previously said he wouldn't — and Okur declined his early termination option.

The Detroit Pistons and Oklahoma City Thunder have the most money to spend, but apparently have different strategies. The Pistons, who freed up millions when they dealt Chauncey Billups to the Denver Nuggets for Iverson and his expiring contract, are expected to pursue Gordon and perhaps Charlie Villanueva. The Milwaukee Bucks let Villanueva become a free agent, and he could also draw interest from the Cleveland Cavaliers.

The Thunder don't seem as eager to throw their money around, knowing a better bet could be slowly building around a young core featuring Kevin Durant, Jeff Green and Russell Westbrook.

Both NBA finalists face free agency decisions. The Los Angeles Lakers will try to keep their championship core intact by retaining Lamar Odom and Ariza, while the Orlando Magic appear likely to lose Turkoglu after trading for Vince Carter last week.

The Houston Rockets must determine how much they value Artest, the last man standing among their big three after injuries to Tracy McGrady and Yao Ming.

"We have 11 guaranteed contracts now and obviously have free agents we need to decide on, Ron and Von (Wafer)," Rockets general manager Daryl Morey said last week. "Obviously, we've got two big players who've got some injuries. We'll learn more over time and as it unfolds, we'll have to react."

BRIAN MAHONEY AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Free agency opens in the NBA on Wednesday and few headline-stealing moves are expected. The blockbuster trades were last week, and the real free agent bonanza is next year.

Financial difficulties, combined with the potential of one of the best free agent classes ever in 2010, will

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Serena Williams of U.S., left, acknowledge the crowd after

defeating Victoria Azarenka of Belarus in their quarterfinal

match at Wimbledon, Tuesday, June 30, 2009; and Elena

Dementieva of Russia plays a return to Francesca Schiavone of

Italy during their quarter final match at Wimbledon, Tuesday,

Pounding aces, Venus won 16 of 18 points on her serve in

the first set on a steamy day, the temperature about 32 C

"Her tennis is so powerful," Radwanska said. "Very hard

It took all of 68 minutes, leaving Venus ample time to

shower, change, do postmatch interviews and still make it

Azarenka hits the ball quite hard herself, letting out a grunt

that sounds something like "Whoop!", but she couldn't

keep up. She even felt compelled to clap after a couple of

"She really showed the unbeatable Serena," Azarenka

Azarenka did break for a 3-2 lead in the second set, but

Serena didn't let her win another game. When Serena smacked one last forehand winner, she jogged to the net,

pumping her fists. Up in the stands, Venus stood and

"We definitely upped our level of game today," said Serena,

who hit nine aces. "We had really tough opponents, so we

On Thursday, two more opponents will try to slow a pair

of sisters who began playing tennis twenty-something

years ago in Compton, California, and have made the

most famous grass courts in the world their personal

One particular family will be hoping for an all-Williams

Dementieva proposed a unique alternative, asking: "Can

final. One nation will be pulling for an all-Russian final.

(90 F) and not a cloud overhead at Court 1.

into the guest box for Serena's match.

June 30, 2009.

WIMBLEDON

in winners.

to do anything."

Serena's best strokes.

acknowledged.

applauded.

had to."

playground.

Continued from Page B10

CLASSIFIED B13 Wednesday, July 1, 2009

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Designs are ready Radwanska was playing in her third Grand Slam quarterfinal, 27 fewer than Venus, and while she upset Information Maria Sharapova at the 2007 U.S. Open, a stunner of that tel. 585 0550 magnitude never seemed a possibility Tuesday. Venus won the first five games and the last six, compiling a 29-6 edge

Associated Press

Wednesday, July 1, 2009 ADVERTISEMENT





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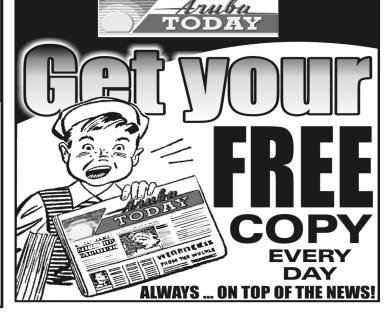
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Zelaya prepara regreso a Honduras tras apoyo de ONU

TEGUCIGALPA (Reuters) - El presidente depuesto Honduras, Manuel Zelaya, se preparaba para regresar el jueves a su país, después de recibir el apoyo Naciones Unidas y de que los mandatarios de Ecuador y Argentina aceptaran acompañarlo pese a una orden de arresto en su contra. Zelaya dijo que quiere volver a Honduras "como presidente legítimo" mientras Gobierno el interino encabezado por el ex jefe del Congreso, Roberto Micheletti, amenaza con arrestarlo bajo cargos de abuso de poder, entre otros.

El depuesto mandatario, un empresario agrícola liberal que en el último año cambió su discurso y se acercó al presidente izquierdista de Venezuela Hugo Chávez, dijo que no intentaba perpetuarse en el poder cuando la semana pasada buscó realizar una consulta popular para abrir paso a la reelección presidencial, lo que desató un golpe militar en su contra.

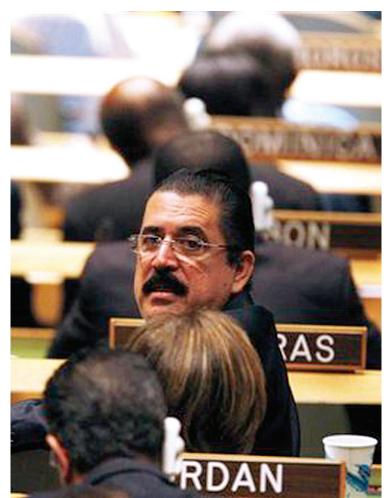
"Todos los países sin excepción, de América, han tenido la dignidad muy fuerte en alto sobre este atroz acontecimiento", dijo Zelaya en un discurso ante la asamblea de la ONU.

"El mundo está agarrando conciencia fuerte de que no podemos utilizar la violencia para resolver problemas que se pueden resolver pacíficamente",

agregó el presidente del país centroamericano, donde hasta inicios de la década de 1980 se sucedieron golpes militares respaldados por Estados Unidos.

La asamblea general de la ONU aprobó una resolución para que sus 192 miembros no reconozcan a otro gobierno en Honduras que no sea el del derrocado mandatario.

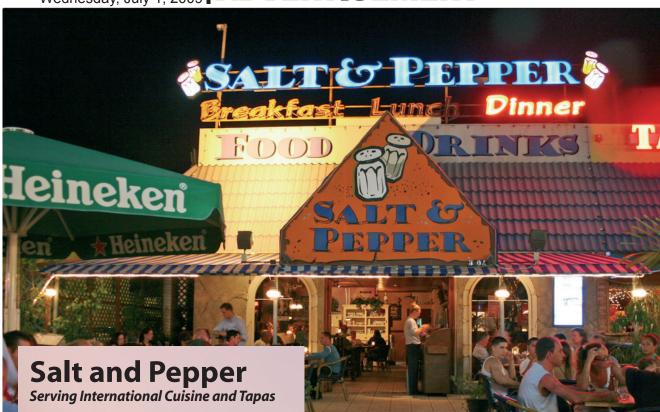
La presidenta de Argentina, Cristina Fernández, y el mandatario ecuatoriano, Rafael Correa, se comprometieron a acompañar a Zelaya en su regreso al país, donde el martes Micheletti organizó una multitudinaria concentración en su contra



El despuesto presidente de Honduras, Manuel Zelaya, observa desde su asiento en la Asamblea de la sede de la ONU en Nueva York, 30 jun 2009. REUTERS/Mike Segar













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